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UNCLAS AMMAN 003000

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EB/TRA/OTP, NEA/ELA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: JCAA RESPONSE TO DHS LIGHTER BAN

REF: STATE 66181

On March 20, ECON/C and econoff delivered reftel demarche to Captain Suleiman Obeidat, Director General of the Jordan Civil Aviation Authority, on the DHS decision to ban butane lighters from all commercial flights to, from, and within the United States. (The Civil Aviation Authority had already been informally alerted to the new DHS policy by the TSA representative in Athens.) Obeidat made no substantive comment at that time, but requested a formal letter from the Embassy announcing this policy, which the Embassy provided for him. When econoff followed up on April 13, Obeidat stated that Jordan's Civil Aviation Authority had implemented the ban on outgoing flights to the United States. He added that given the fact that no other country had banned butane lighters and that a ban on lighters was not an International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) decision, Jordan continued to allow them on all flights not bound for the United States.

He also stated that he had passed information on the ban to Royal Jordanian Airlines, the only carrier with direct flights between Jordan and the United States.

HALE